

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle seat mounting assembly comprising, in combination:
at least one movable seat track;
a linkage assembly including:

a first link having a first external surface, a first internal surface, and a first aperture extending between the first external surface and the first internal surface;

a second link having a second external surface, a second internal surface, and a second aperture extending between the second external surface and the second internal surface;

a fastener having a head portion and a cylindrical body portion extending therefrom and terminating at a distal end opposite said head portion; and

wherein said body portion extends through said first and second apertures and is plastically deformed so that the fastener secures the first and second members to allow relative rotational movement between the first and second members while preventing relative linear motion therebetween; and

wherein said linkage assembly is operably connected to said seat track to move said seat track.

2. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said first link has a first thickness, said second link has a second thickness, and said body portion has a length that is greater than the sum of the first thickness and the second thickness such that when said internal face of said first link is placed against said internal face of said second link and said body portion is inserted through said first and second links, a segment of said body portion extends beyond said links.

3. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein the distal end of the body portion forms a lip engaging an external surface of the second link.

4. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 3, wherein said second link is locked to said fastener via said lip to prevent relative rotational movement between said second link and said fastener while allowing said first link to move freely relative to said first link and said fastener.

5. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the first link has a first thickness between a first external surface engaged by the head portion and a first internal surface engaged by the second link, and a first aperture extending between the first external surface and the first internal surface;

the second link has a second thickness between a second external surface engaged by the body portion and a second internal surface engaged by the first internal surface, and a second aperture extending between the second external surface and the second internal surface; and

the body portion has a length which is greater than the sum of the first thickness and the second thickness such that the first internal surface of the first link is positioned against the second internal surface of the second link, the body portion extends through the first and second apertures of the first and second links, and a segment of the body portion extends beyond the first and second members.

6. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said body portion has a central bore with an internal diameter.

7. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein:

said first link has a first thickness;

said second link has a second thickness; and

the central bore has a length which is greater than the first thickness and less than the sum of the first thickness and the second thickness.

8. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein said central bore extends for a length less than the total length of the body portion.

9. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 6, wherein said central bore is open at the end of the body portion opposite the head portion and is closed toward the body portion.

10. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said linkage assembly is operably connected to said seat track to vertically move said seat track.

11. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said body portion comprises plastically deformable material for forming a lip at the distal end and engaging one the first and second links.

12. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the cylindrical body portion has an external diameter and said head portion is enlarged such that the head portion extends radially outward beyond the external diameter of the body portion

13. A vehicle seat mounting assembly comprising, in combination:
at least one movable seat track;
a linkage assembly including:

a first link having a first external surface, a first internal surface, and a first aperture extending between the first external surface and the first internal surface;

a second link having a second external surface, a second internal surface, and a second aperture extending between the second external surface and the second internal surface;

a fastener having a head portion and a body portion extending outwardly from said head portion and defining an external diameter, said body portion being generally cylindrical and having a central bore with an internal diameter, and the central bore has a length

which is greater than the first thickness and less than the first thickness and the second thickness combined; and

wherein said body portion extends through said first and second apertures and is plastically deformed so that the fastener secures the first and second members to allow relative rotational movement between the first and second members while preventing relative linear motion therebetween; and

wherein said linkage assembly is operably connected to said seat track to move said seat track.

14. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein the body portion of the fastener has a length that is greater than the sum of the first thickness and the second thickness such that with the first internal surface of the first link positioned against the second internal surface of the second link and the body portion extending through the first and second apertures of the first and second links with the head portion engaging the first external surface, a segment of the body portion extends beyond the first and second links.

15. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein said body portion terminates at a distal end opposite said head portion and said distal end is plastically deformed by a longitudinal load in a direction from the distal end toward the head portion.

16. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 15, wherein said distal end is plastically deformed to form a lip for engaging one of the first and second links.

17. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 16, wherein said lip locks the fastener to one of the first and second links via said lip to prevent relative rotational movement between the one link and the fastener while allowing the other link to rotate around the fastener.

18. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein said central bore extends from an end of the body portion opposite the head portion for a length less than the total length of the body portion.

19. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein said linkage assembly is operably connected to said seat track to vertically move said seat track.

20. A vehicle seat mounting assembly as recited in claim 13, wherein the cylindrical body portion has an external diameter and said head portion is enlarged such that the head portion extends radially outward beyond the external diameter of the body portion.